THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Officials of the State Police Department and Forest Department have full powers for taking action against the offenders of the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. However, certain persons, at times, do manage to illegally hunt wild animals and selt it in the markets. Lack of wildlife protection infrastructure outside protected areas is one of the causes for non-detection of such cases. The State Governments have been asked to increase surveillance and take action against such persons through involvement of Police and Officials in the Territorial Forest Division.

Conference on Pollution

2159. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at a three-day conference on pollution recently, the World Bank representative suggested that not less than 20 per cent of deaths in India are due to pollution;

(b) whether it was also stated that there is considerable scope for improvement in the regulatory and fiscal regimes for industrial pollution check and the laws don't have any economic incentive or disincentive for pollution abatement; and

(c) if so, what action Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The World Bank representative had conjectured that atleast 20 per cent of deaths in India is attributable to pollution.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The conference recommended various options for further improvement in the regulatory and fiscal regimes for consideration of the Ministry.